

ENERGY CONSERVATION TIPS

With today's rising utility rates, clubs need to be operated more efficiently to maintain financial solvency. To save money, we must be smarter about when and how we use electricity. The following tips give examples of ways to reduce your overall electrical consumption.

1. Purchase insulated cooking equipment whenever possible. Insulation maintains more heat in the equipment and transfers less heat into the environment.
2. Don't open oven doors repeatedly to check cooking progress, this let's heat escape which means it takes longer for the food to cook properly.
3. Turn off kitchen appliances when cooking is completed or service is over (ovens, steam tables, Alto-Shams, heat lamps, fryers, etc.), do not leave them on until closing if they are no longer needed.
 - a. Turn ovens down or off during low production periods.
 - b. Ensure oven doors fit tightly and gaskets are in good condition.
 - c. Turn off backup fryers during low production periods.
 - d. Filter fryer oil at least daily to extend the life of the oil.
4. Buy energy efficient rated refrigerators and freezers, they are built to use less energy while still keeping your food fresh.
 - a. Keep evaporator coils clean and free of ice or debris buildup.
 - b. Use night covers on display cases.
 - c. Keep refrigerators full (water jugs make good fillers).
 - d. Install automatic door-closures and strip curtains on walk-in refrigerator/freezers.
5. Don't over-cool or over-heat your club. Set the thermostat at the lowest comfortable temperature in the winter and the highest comfortable temperature in the summer. For each degree of change, you'll use less energy and see the dollar savings at the end of each month. For each degree you lower your thermostat in the winter, you save approximately 3 percent on your heating bill (Reference: PowerSmart—Keeping Your Cool).
 - a. Caulk and weather-strip windows and doors.
 - b. In the winter, open your draperies or blinds during the day to let the sun help heat the club and close the draperies to help keep the heat out in the summer.
 - c. Avoid blocking heating registers.
 - d. Clean and replace air conditioner (AC) and furnace filters as required.
 - e. Inspect your heating and AC air ducts. Leaking air ducts can decrease the overall efficiency of your heating and cooling system.
 - f. Install individual heating and cooling controls in each club zone (dining area, ballroom, lounges, etc.). You can cool/heat those zones in the club that are in use and adjust (lower or raise temperature) in the zones not in use to save

- energy. Install time clocks or setback programmable thermostats to maximize efficiency.
- g. Install locking covers on your thermostats to prevent tampering with temperature settings.
6. Ensure electronic devices such as TV's, computers, fax machines, scanners, copiers, bingo equipment, electronic displays, etc., are turned off or set to the sleep setting mode when not in use. In the sleep setting mode, the computer stays on, but consumes less energy when not in use. In addition, office equipment that power down when not in use gives off less heat, which contributes to reduced need for cooling. Turn off these electronic devices when closing for the day.
7. Lower light setting or turn off lights in rooms that are not being used. Consider replacing incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs. They initially cost more, however, the cost savings are realized in total cost of electricity used and in the life of the bulb (12 times longer life span).
- a. Retrofit incandescent or fluorescent exit signs with long lasting, low-energy LED exit signs.
 - b. Clean dusty diffusers and lamps every 6-12 months for improved lumen output.
 - c. Consider removing excess fluorescent lights and installing reflectors.
8. AFMAN 34-228, *Air Force Club Program Procedures*, paragraph 10.5, provides guidance stating: "Club management trains employees to practice energy conservation techniques. Taking advantage of an energy audit (offered free by most utility companies) is an excellent means of identifying waste and ways to reduce utility consumption."

Mr. Terry Lowry/HQ AFSVA/SVICO/DSN 487-6312

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